

Chugach National Forest Service

Iditarod National Historic Trail

And now the rest of the story, or should we say ---TRUTH.

My primary concern is mainly with the trails in the Girdwood area but I am also concerned with all trails, rights and freedoms granted to all Americans.

Again I must express my concern of the selfishness that seems to be becoming more prevalent with the new generations that are coming to our once great state of Alaska.

Some of the comments I read from the meeting in Girdwood on Dec.4, 2003 are almost laughable but sad as I know they aren't true at all. Judging by my past observations and talking with other knowledgeable people, for example one speaker said she is "not opposed to snowmachining" which is like saying the Sierra Club isn't against logging or whaling.

This may seem like strong language but that's what it is going to take to get back our freedoms that we are losing to the increasing number of zealots coming to Alaska.

Another speaker states he's against any snowmachining in the Girdwood valley but he is seen by many, illegally riding snowmachines in his job on our roads. A true hypocrite!

What these newcomers aren't telling you is that the overwhelming majority of trails were made by snowmachiners, rv enthusiasts, dog mushers and horseback riders of which I've participated in all, some more than others.

The original trails were made by railroaders, miners, loggers, trappers and pioneers (some were my grandparents and other close relatives) but were grown over and mostly impassable until some were cleared out by the snowmachiners, rv enthusiasts etc. and added to. New trails were pioneered by some of us locals specifically keep out of the way of others.

The people clearing these trails welcomed all to use them unlike the "new" crowd coming here now and forcing the original builders off the trails for their own selfish use.

These people say there is no local support for snowmachining in Girdwood valley but that simply isn't true. At one of these "stacked" meetings where the complaints were about "noise" and "pollution" I told the anti crowd that there was a new "quiet, clean" battery powered machine coming out soon. They were caught by surprise but still wanted them banned. I guess we all know what's going on here with the selfish "anti zealots"!

The definition of zealot? :a zealous person; *esp* : a fanatical partisan **syn** enthusiast, bigot.

This is a mainly snow related recreation valley in the winter and no one group should have exclusive rights to it. In the future there may be an attempt to restore some of the uses that were taken away. The trail I'm concerned about is the one I built up the valley just to the West of Glacier Creek from the Alaska Railroad to the AWWU sewer plant. This is an original trail, not following a previous trail and was built for the use of off road 4 wheelers and snowmachines. If this is TRULY the Iditarod trail we are concerned about, I believe, and so do a lot of others that it should follow the original route and not vary from it in certain areas for purely political reasons, among them, disrupting lands intended for other uses.

The present "bike" trail more closely follows the original trail and the public has already spent over \$1 million on it. I see no reason to spend millions more of the taxpayers dollars and taking more land when a more than adequate right of way and trail exists in the Girdwood section.

Alaska also has the National Park Service besides our State Park Service which have an

abundance of restrictions. Let's not turn the National Forest service into a park service too. The more restrictive organizations become, the more problems they create. Like my last letter, addressing the Chugach National Forest Service plan, I stated that I believe that people should be made to share more. I believe that once people understand this, the sooner we'll all get along. What is needed is a continuous, non-challenging trail, from Seward on through Girdwood for snowmachiners. Anything else would be truly disappointing.

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